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Agency News

US service veterans prepared for second career with TDCJ

Veterans share the agency's core values of hard work and job discipline

Tom Garey, Madeline Ortiz, Myra Walker and James Mossbarger are among the respected leaders within TDCJ whose job duties cover a wide range of responsibilities, but who share the distinction of having served in the United States Armed Forces. Each credits their military experience as the foundation for their successful careers with the agency.

"As a veteran myself, I know firsthand the dedication, skills, and energy our veterans bring to any task. They are a valuable resource trained to make things happen. We at TDCJ understand this as do other employers in our state, and we stand ready to find the right opportunities for veterans to continue to serve the state and country as private citizens making a positive contribution to our local communities."

Oliver J. Bell, Chairman,
Texas Board of Criminal Justice



Tom Garey is director of the Parole Division's Warrants Section. Garey began his military service in 1989 as a law enforcement specialist, and later as a corrections specialist, at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. After obtaining a criminal justice degree from Sam Houston State University, he began looking at correctional careers with TDCJ. Today, he credits his military service for teaching him job discipline, saying, "My time in the service taught me the value of dedication to duty, and how important it is to live a well-ordered life. When you combine a positive attitude with good work habits, you have a strong foundation for any professional career, especially one in criminal justice."

Before assuming her duties as director of TDCJ's Rehabilitation and Reentry Division, Madeline Ortiz served for eight years with

the Army Reserves as a military police officer, during which she learned hard work and discipline are critical to successful job performance. Asked to describe her experience with the military, Ortiz replied, "The men and women of the Armed Forces are dedicated, hard-working individuals, and the skills I

"The agency is fortunate many veterans of the United States Armed Forces have chosen to continue their public service through careers with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The contributions of our veterans are deeply appreciated, as is the dedication, hard work and public service of all TDCJ employees."

Brad Livingston,
Executive Director, TDCJ

learned serving my country have served me well in my current position." In her role as director of the Rehabilitation Programs Division, Ortiz oversees coordination of all agency offender treatment programs.

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Myra Walker began her career in the military as a pediatric nurse for the Army Nurse Corps in 1981, and said serving in Desert Storm taught her to value each individual. “In the military, every person has a role and it was important for each person to understand that their role – no matter how small – contributes to the success of the mission.” That philosophy continues to serve her in her current role as chief of the Office of Pro-

fessional Standards for the Health Services Division. “By ensuring everyone knows the significance of their function, you’re boosting morale and creating a professional environment.”

The Senior warden of the Ramsey Unit, James Mossbarger, began his military career in 1980, serving in the US Marine Corps. He credits his time in the service with teaching him the value of teamwork, “The Marines taught me that a successful leader is one that

gives staff the tools they need to be successful. Every person in a team must be aware of the responsibilities of others and be able to step into a leadership role if needed.” Mossbarger is a 28-year veteran of the agency.

The agency extends its gratitude to all TDCJ employees for their public service, and special thanks those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. ●